

noncommissioned officer in Congress, this anniversary is a landmark that I am personally very proud of.

Three hundred seventy-five years ago today, on December 13, 1636, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem declared that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia. These men were called upon when needed, and we proudly continue this tradition of citizen service.

Today our National Guard soldiers are called upon to serve both here in our communities and around the world in support of our current overseas operations. Our Nation's citizen soldiers dedicate themselves to the defense of our Nation both here and abroad. I personally would like to thank all of my fellow Guardsmen for the job they are doing, and thank you to all of our men and women in uniform, and especially their families.

Thank you, happy birthday, and God bless.

LIHEAP

(Mr. BASS of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, the weather is cold in the Northeast. This year is no exception. In October, we had a huge snowstorm, an emergency declaration. Residents of the northern States—Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont—are over 80 percent dependent on heating oil. And we've depended—in the case of New Hampshire, 47,200 people—on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. It is imperative that this program be adequately funded this year.

Mr. Speaker, the President, in his budget submission this year, proposed to cut LIHEAP funding by 50 percent. I urge our appropriators to do better than that this year because there are a lot of people in the Northeast that need this funding this year.

I urge support for adequate funding for low income energy assistance.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Human Rights Day.

This past Saturday, I was honored to speak in commemoration of Human Rights Day, a day chosen to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was the world's first bill of rights.

When many from all corners of the globe were fighting for basic freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, people from fear and repression—the declaration assured them that they were fighting the good fight and they were on the right side of history.

Today I stand to recognize the men and women who are still fighting for these freedoms, including the seven democracy and land rights activists and 15 youth activists who have been illegally detained by the Vietnamese Government.

All individuals deserve the right to peacefully express their concerns. I call on my colleagues to stand side by side with these brave individuals and raise their voice in demanding that the Government of Vietnam release all prisoners of conscience and uphold their commitment to human rights for all.

□ 1220

CREATING JOBS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to extend critical provisions to help those seeking jobs, and we will do so without hurting job creators or adding to our national debt. Today's Tax Relief and Job Creation Act also extends the payroll tax holiday, preventing a tax increase on millions of Americans. I'm also very glad to see that we extend the doc fix for 2 years, preventing cuts that could lead many doctors to stop seeing Medicare patients. The bill also shows that the government doesn't have to spend money to create jobs; much of the time it just has to get out of the way.

The State Department has already declared that the planned route of the Keystone pipeline is the safest option, that the contractor is taking every safety precaution. We can see more than 120,000 jobs directly and indirectly created without a dime of taxpayer money.

Our bill proves that you don't need to raise taxes on some Americans to create jobs and provide essential benefits. We don't need to hurt job creators or add to future burdens in order to do the right thing.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I think we should prevent 160 million taxpayers from getting a lump of coal and a tax hike this year, but we should not undermine Social Security.

Last year, it was a mistake to take the 2 percent tax cut from Social Security and say we'll cover the losses from general funds. We should not allow a 1-year mistake to become a permanent attack on Social Security and on the livelihood of its beneficiaries.

Social Security should not be used as a rainy day fund or a political bar-

gaining chip. It should not be like another government agency that some years has a good budget and some years has the budget voted away.

President Roosevelt described it best. He said, "We put these payroll contributions there so as to give the contributors a legal, moral, and political right to collect their pensions. With those taxes in there, no damn politician can ever scrap my Social Security program."

Now, here's a way to handle the problem and to keep the mechanism of Social Security intact: Make the changes within the existing system. Let's cut the payroll tax for 160 million Americans but make up the lost revenue by temporarily eliminating the cap on wages taxed.

As much as we need economic stimulus now, we need Social Security for generations to come.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The Chair will remind Members to heed the gavel.

THE JOBS BILL

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, Americans have made their lists for the holidays. Drum roll, please.

Number 10, pass the doc fix for doctors who treat Medicare patients;

Number 9, continue the payroll tax holiday for American workers;

Number 8, approve the Keystone pipeline in the name of creating jobs;

Number 7, extend and reform employment benefits;

Number 6, repayment of subsidies and reduce all fraud, waste, and abuse;

Number 5, prevent the EPA from destroying jobs by onerous boiler MACT regulation;

Number 4, allow businesses to expense their costly purchases;

Number 3, include spectrum auctions for more broadband services;

Number 2, do all of this without adding to the deficit; and

Number 1, please create American jobs.

To my colleagues, don't be a grinch. Please help grant America's holiday wishes.

And to the President, make this your list, check it twice. America wants and needs jobs for the holidays.

HUNGER IN AMERICA

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we're the richest, most prosperous nation in the world, but 49 million Americans went hungry in 2009; 16 million were children. These numbers would be higher if it weren't for programs like

SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, and WIC.

We have a hunger crisis in America, and we are not doing enough to prevent this terrible scourge.

During this holiday season, the House and Senate Hunger Caucuses are sponsoring the Hour for Hunger event. Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON and I are encouraging every Member of this House to volunteer 1 hour to highlight efforts in their districts to fight hunger. Visit a food bank or a food pantry, host a food drive. It's not hard, but it's important and effective.

Finally, I want to urge the White House to host a Conference on Food and Nutrition so we can develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated national strategy to end hunger in America once and for all.

Hunger is a political condition. All we need now is the political will to end it.

APPROVE THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. Millions of Americans are jobless. In response, the House of Representatives has passed more than 20 jobs bills.

This past July, the North American-Made Energy Security Act urged President Obama to issue a final permitting decision on the Keystone pipeline, which will connect Canada's rich oil sands to the U.S. refineries along the gulf coast.

Our dependence on Middle East oil is a security and economic challenge that we must overcome.

The proposed pipeline would consist of over 1,700 miles capable of delivering more than half a million barrels of crude oil each day. In my home State of Oklahoma, this pipeline project is expected to add \$1.2 billion in economic impact.

This pipeline presents a unique chance for America to truly cull back our precarious dependence on Middle East oil while also adding tremendous economic activity to our stagnant economy.

In early November of this year, the Obama administration made an unacceptable political decision to punt the approval of the Keystone pipeline until after the Presidential election. A few weeks ago, I formally asked the Secretary of State to at least approve the southern route of the pipeline from Cushing, Oklahoma, to the gulf. Our country has waited for Presidential approval for 3 years.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 3630

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan to extend the payroll tax

is deeply flawed in many ways, but perhaps the most egregious are the fundamental changes it would make to some of our Nation's core institutions without any discussion or debate.

It would cut unemployment insurance benefits for 1 million Americans and impose new restrictive limits on workers who've been laid off. It would require millions of seniors to pay more for health care by slashing funding designed to lower costs. It would roll back essential EPA rules to keep our air clean, and it would actually increase the deficit by almost \$26 billion over 10 years, according to the CBO.

The vast majority of Americans want the wealthiest to pay their fair share so we can get the country back on track and preserve government institutions. We need a reasonable solution to keep middle class tax cuts in place and maintain funding for Social Security.

Republicans are saying, sure, we'll give you a tax cut, but we're going to slash your husband's unemployment benefits in order to pay for it. That's not a way for families to preserve their standard of living.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a government that is fair and just, not one that promotes economic imbalance and cynicism.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 3630.

FARMERS CONFRONTED BY OUT-OF-CONTROL REGULATION

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, last week the Illinois Farm Bureau Federation polled its members about the long-term challenges confronting them. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the number one thing that they named is government regulation. After all, Washington bureaucrats too often know nothing about rural America and challenges confronting our farming families. They've sought to burden them with new regulations on everything from spilt milk to dust.

But while those bureaucrats are trying to generate more regulations, here in the House we're working hard to cut it back. This year, we have passed numerous pieces of legislation to roll back the most egregious rules proposed by the EPA and others to ensure that America's family farmers have the regulatory certainty they need to survive and thrive over the next decade and beyond.

Now it's time for the Senate to act.

WE DON'T LEARN FROM HISTORY

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what's the matter with us when we don't learn from history.

After the Great Depression, we passed the Social Security Act. Two

major components: One is to keep our seniors safe in their years of retirement, and the second, to provide for those who may become unemployed through no fault of their own.

The bill that we're being asked to vote on today is going to cut unemployment, cut unemployment, the extended portion, which people have come to rely on for those who are looking for work and can't get it, and we're cutting the emergency portion of it as well by eliminating tiers.

But, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else, the part that just bothers me and forces me to speak is that we are going to make people qualify for unemployment. They've got to have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent.

Mr. Speaker, my father went to the ninth grade. He worked through his whole life. Imagine someone like him, and there are many people like my father, that will not qualify for unemployment, will not qualify because they didn't have a high school diploma.

□ 1230

LEFT TURN, BY TIM GROSECLOSE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Professor Tim Groseclose of UCLA has recently published a book, "Left Turn, How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind." He uses clearly defined quantitative measures to evaluate the bias of media outlets.

In "Left Turn," he scientifically measures the political content of media outlets and converts that content into a slant quotient of an outlet. To measure the bias, he compares slant quotients of news outlets to the political quotients of the typical American voter and political leaders.

Groseclose concludes that the great majority of all national media outlets have a liberal bias. He also points out the conservative bias of a very few outlets, but he determined their conservative bias is less than the liberal bias of most national media.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Groseclose also cites evidence that the media has shifted the political views of Americans and caused them to be more liberal. So media bias is both real and unfortunate.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud recent actions taken by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to better inform American consumers. Created last year by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law, the